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of the United Nations
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Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda*

EMERGING POLICY ISSUES

Executive summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director**

1. As requested by the Governing Council in its decision 17/37, paragraph 4, the Executive Director has the honour to present the following executive summary of the 1992 Annual Report as an information document to the Council.

2. The 1992 Annual Report marked the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme and also the last year of office of the second Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Mostafa Tolba, who had been Executive Director of the organization for more than 17 years. In view of these milestones, it was decided that the 1992 Annual Report would be an account of the first 20 years of UNEP's history rather than an account of what had taken place specifically during the year 1992.

3. Chapter one of the report gives an overview of the first 20 years of UNEP's life, since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, which led to the creation of UNEP. It briefly describes the original basic elements of the environment programme: the Governing Council of UNEP, the Environment Coordination Board, the environment secretariat, and, finally, the Environment Fund. It then goes on to briefly outline UNEP's history from its inception to its location in Nairobi from August 1973 through to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held, in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, which had a profound influence on UNEP's work and future.

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* UNEP/GC.18/1.

** The present text supersedes the executive summary presented to the Council at its seventeenth session (UNEP/GC.17/22), which was prepared prior to the finalization of the 1992 Annual Report.

4. In chapter two, the report concentrates on UNEP's catalytic role as expressed through inter-agency cooperation in the field of the environment. It highlights the role of the Environmental Coordination Board, subsequently assumed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, as well as the extensive efforts at joint programming between UNEP and the United Nations regional commissions and UNDP and the specialized agencies. The chapter highlights a shining example of UNEP coordination and cooperation with United Nations agencies and Governments, namely, cooperation on improving and protecting the environmental situation of the Mediterranean Sea through Mediterranean Action Plan. Finally, this chapter outlines UNEP's cooperation with the secretariats of various environmental conventions, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), as well as with the Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

5. Chapter three, on the environment programme, sets out, both thematically and historically, the development of the programme in response to various requests from Governments. It gives an overview of the original form of the programme, which concentrated on three areas of the Stockholm Action Plan, namely, environmental assessment, environmental management and support measures. It then provides a history of the various components of UNEP's programme concentrating in particular on the programme activity centres. Particular emphasis has been put on the achievements of each programme component.

6. Chapter four, entitled "Law and the organization - United Nations decisions affecting UNEP", explains the important work of the Governing Council and highlights the decisions that have had a profound influence on the shape and delivery of the organization. In addition, the chapter contains an extensive overview of General Assembly resolutions that have had a direct impact on the work of UNEP and on the work of its Governing Council. A separate section also relates to the work of UNEP decisions of international conferences such as the United Nations Conference - Exposition on Human Settlements in 1976, the United Nations Water Conference in 1977, the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977, and so forth, up to the most recent and most important, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

7. In chapter five, developments with regard to administration and finance are explained starting with the establishment of the interim and then the permanent headquarters of UNEP in Gigiri. A history of the staffing of UNEP is given, together with an overview of the contributions and expenditures under the Environment Fund and finance from other sources such as the United Nations regular budget, trust funds and counterpart contributions.

8. Chapter six looks briefly into the future and, in particular, emphasizes the changes that would come about by the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the advent of a new Executive Director in UNEP with a new and up-to-date management style and a vision of what UNEP should be in the future.

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

STATE OF PREPAREDNESS OF DOCUMENTS
FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 33/56 of 14 December 1978, decided that eight weeks before the opening of a meeting of an intergovernmental body, a report on "the state of preparedness of all the documents for the session, in all languages" should be circulated.

2. In compliance with that resolution, the following table shows the state of preparedness on 20 March 1995 of documents for the eighteenth session of the Governing Council. For documents which have been distributed in all six language versions, it indicates the date of distribution. For the remaining documents it gives the scheduled date of distribution. It should be noted that Monday 3 April 1995 is the date by which documents are to be distributed in compliance with the six-week rule (rule 12, para. 3 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council). An asterisk indicates that a document contains information which is not yet available and, hence, cannot be submitted in accordance with the six-week rule.

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Agenda Item	Symbol	Working title	Status of distribution
1		Notification	Distributed on 15 February 1995
2 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/1	Provisional agenda	Distributed on 15 February 1995
2 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work	To be distributed on 20 March 1995
2 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/Inf.3	State of preparedness of documents	To be distributed on 20 March 1995
4	UNEP/GC.18/34	Policy statement by the Executive Director	*
4	UNEP/GC.18/9	Proposed Programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1996-1997	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4	UNEP/GC.18/11	Report on UNEP's programme and the role of women in environment and development	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4	UNEP/GC.18/35	Report on carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by seas	*
4	UNEP/GC.18/7	Development of an international legally binding instrument for the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade	To be distributed on 24 March 1995
4	UNEP/GC.18/18	Report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab Territories	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4	UNEP/GC.18/22	Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (a)	UNEP/GC.18/24	Statement on the Environment	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (a)	UNEP/GC.18/26	Implications of major events on UNEP's Programme	*
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/Inf.2	Executive summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director	To be distributed on 20 March 1995
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/Inf.4	Executive summary of the 1993 Annual Report of the Executive Director	To be distributed on 3 April 1995

Agenda Item	Symbol	Working title	Status of distribution
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/6	Application of environmental norms by military establishments	To be distributed on 24 March 1995
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/6/Add.1	Supplement	*
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/27	Report on relationship between environment and sustainable development including report on cooperation between UNEP and CSD	*
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/15	International environmental technology centres	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/19	Report on results obtained in assisting countries with economies in transition with their environmental problems	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (b)	UNEP/GC.18/5	Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, development of international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that exporters of a technology could feasibly provide to importers	To be distributed on 24 March 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/28	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its 48th and 49th sessions specifically calling for action by UNEP, including Antarctica	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/37	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (1993) to GC.18	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/23	Report on International Conventions and Protocols in the field of the environment	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/23/Add.1	Supplement	*
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/3	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/Inf.1	Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between UNEP and other UN organizations	Distributed on 1 March 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/29	Report on results achieved in increasing cooperation between UNEP & Habitat, including implementation of relevant parts of Agenda 21	To be distributed on 3 April 1995

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Agenda Item	Symbol	Working title	Status of distribution
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/36	Report on the need for a UN system-wide strategy and planning document in the field of the environment, including succession to DOEM and the new coordinating role of UNEP	*
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/12	Report on progress of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/17	The Climate Agenda - International climate related programmes	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
4 (c)	UNEP/GC.18/2	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies	Distributed on 10 March 1995
4 (d)	UNEP/GC.18/20	Progress report on the participation of the UNEP in the GEF	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
5	UNEP/GC.18/4	Earthwatch, environment monitoring and assessment	To be distributed on 24 March 1995
5	UNEP/GC.18/30	Report on estimates of costs for the Programme to fully implement those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for UNEP's attention	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
6	UNEP/GC.18/8	Progress report, including a plan of action, on the development and use of environmental indicators	To be distributed on 24 March 1995
6	UNEP/GC.18/Add.1	Indicators for sustainable development	*
6	UNEP/GC.18/25	Report on development of environment and economics	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
7	UNEP/GC.18/31	Report on the regional representation, regional offices and liaison offices	*
7	UNEP/GC.18/21	Mercure satellite telecommunications system	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
7	UNEP/GC.18/14	Management of the Environment Fund	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
7	UNEP/GC.18/13	Management of Trust and other Funds including proposals for rationalization and coordinationof trust funds and counterpart contributions, predictability of funding and liquidity of the Env. Fund and report on progress in Clearing-house activities	To be distributed on 3 April 1995

Agenda Item	Symbol	Working title	Status of distribution
7	UNEP/GC.18/33	Revised 1994-1995 budget in new format and report on implementation of paras. 1-6 of decision 17/41	*
7	UNEP/GC.18/32	PPSC performance report	To be distributed on 3 April 1995
7	UNEP/GC.18/L.1	Observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed PPSC budget and on the PPSC performance report	*
7	UNEP/GC.18/16	Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 (audited accounts)	To be distributed on 24 March 1995
7	UNEP/GC.18/10	Report on new developments in conference servicing, including remote translation, establishment of a team of interpreters, remote interpretation, including limitation of GC documentation	To be distributed on 3 April 1995

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POLICY ISSUES: EMERGING POLICY ISSUES

Executive summary of the 1993 Annual Report of the Executive Director

Report of the Executive Director

1. As requested by the Governing Council in its decision 17/37, operative paragraph 4, the Executive Director submits the following executive summary of her 1993 Annual Report as an information document to the Council.

2. The 1993 Annual Report marks for the organization a year of new beginnings and profound and often difficult change: the deliberations in Rio de Janeiro during the summer of 1992 gave the world's environmental agencies an agenda with which to enter the twenty-first century. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the United Nations environmental agency, was challenged to renew its programming to meet the directives presented by the world's political leaders. The present report reflects the activities UNEP undertook to adopt to help achieve sustainable development.

3. Chapter one describes the Environmental Law programme and the Environment and Economics programme of UNEP, the latter of which was initiated in January 1993, following consultation with other United Nations agencies and a number of international organizations. The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the Nineties (the Montevideo Programme, as adopted by Governing Council decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993) takes the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) into consideration, and provides for objectives, strategies and activities in the general development of international environmental law for the 1990's. The Programme in particular addresses: the capacity of States to participate effectively in the development and implementation of environmental law; implementation of international legal instruments in the field of the environment; adequacy of existing international instruments; dispute avoidance and settlement; and legal and administrative mechanisms for the prevention and redress of pollution and other environmental damage. In the area of environmental aspects of development planning and cooperation the chapter also

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addresses problems relating to five major issues: economic policy instruments; valuation of environmental goods and services; environmental impact assessment and cost-benefit analysis; environmental and natural resource accounting; and Trade.

4. Chapter two concentrates on the impact of change in the biosphere and threats to various ecosystems. The programme undertaken by UNEP presents a new and integrated approach, geared towards improved and increased cooperation with its partners in developing impact and response strategies to cope with a variety of issues. The interlinkages between issues such as climate change and resultant sea-level rise, drought and other natural disasters and threats to biodiversity are covered in this chapter. Furthermore, the consistent efforts undertaken by UNEP to develop an operational network of agreements under which neighbouring countries take joint action to conserve common resources are discussed. Throughout the year, UNEP continued to refine its programme activities in the Environmentally Sound Management of Inland Waters (EMINWA).

5. Chapter three, focusing on human health and welfare, sets out how UNEP, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supports activities aimed at building the knowledge base and strengthening national capacities concerning biosafety issues, including risk assessment and risk management. The chapter also discusses how UNEP is working with other partners in exploring ways of developing an internationally agreed regulatory instrument on biosafety. The chapter describes how the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) continues to devote itself to the exchange of information on chemicals and chemical risks and to the strengthening of national capabilities to manage chemicals. To this end, IRPTC enhanced its cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and WHO in conjunction with the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), as well as other organizations including FAO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Also, the chapter draws attention to the continued cooperation undertaken between UNEP, WHO and ILO in the IPCS.

6. Chapter four describes the work of the Global Resource Information Database (GRID), which uses computer technology to process and analyse data and produce environmental maps and print-outs which can be used by planners. It is based on environmental geographic information systems (GIS), which can be used to study local, national or global issues. From tropical soil biology to Arctic research, from database management for the Lower Mekong basin to a world survey of nuclear power plants, GRID scans the planet, acting as an environmental switchboard to provide data to users throughout the world. This chapter also deals with INFOTERRA, the UNEP environmental information exchange mechanism, which focuses on the provision of guidance on how information can be most effectively used. The chapter further discusses how this programme has strengthened its electronic mail system, both among network partners and within the UNEP secretariat, and how the INFOTERRA regional service centres have assumed a more prominent role in the delivery of INFOTERRA services.

7. Chapter five concentrates on the reorientation of environmental education towards sustainable development by increasing public awareness and promoting training. These issues are addressed by various programmes within UNEP from different perspectives. The chapter describes how the overall goal of the UNEP environmental education programme has been implemented by the provision of technical and public information to enable Governments, non-governmental organizations, the media, interest groups and communities to act responsibly in order to improve their quality of life while caring for the Earth and its

ecosystems. In doing so, UNEP identifies and works with an extended network of outreach partners who can provide a multiplier effect in creating environmental awareness, establishing new information networks and enhancing the managerial capacities in the field of public and technical information of developing countries.

8. Chapter six describes the role of the regional offices representing UNEP in all capacity-building activities and programme implementation with Governments in close collaboration with United Nations resident coordinators in their geographical domain. The regional offices organize training courses and workshops on environmental management for the benefit of the countries of the region. Their role in the preparation and development of country strategies to enable the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building projects is also described in this chapter.

9. In chapter seven the administrative and financial aspects of the year 1993 are described, including elaborations on staffing, overview of contributions and expenditures of the Environment Fund, trust funds, counterpart contributions and the United Nations regular budget.

10. Chapter eight describes the process by which the new needs, methods and direction of the organization were brought forward and presented at the Governing Council at its seventeenth session in May 1993, the first post-UNCED meeting of the UNEP governing body. The first budgetary directives given for the new year were a significant shift of emphasis toward meeting the requirements of Agenda 21. The chapter further elaborates on the priorities as agreed upon by the Governments during this session, describing the reorientation of programmes to comply with the Rio mandate and to be both responsive to the needs of Governments and people and driven by those needs. In addition, the chapter introduces the results management system.